Emission cuts

1658. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has initiated moves to impose additional tariffs on goods from countries like India that do not take on commitments to cut their greenhouse gas emissions;

(b) whether WTO has commented that trade concerns should be subjugated to climate change issues; and

(c) whether India is not obligated to undertake any mandatory emission cuts under the existing UN convention on climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The US has proposed a legislation entitled 'American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009' which aims, *inter alia*, to reduce global pollution and transition to a clean energy economy. The proposed legislation has a provision for imposition of 'border adjustment' measures. Under these measures, foreign manufacturers and Importers including those from India would be required to pay for and hold special allowances to cover the carbon contained in US-bound products with a view to ensure that US manufacturers are not put at a disadvantage relative to overseas competitors.

(b) WTO, along with UNEP, has recently published a report titled 'trade and climate change' which states that more open trade will most likely lead to increased emissions which may not be fully offset by the change in the emissions caused by improvements or changes in the 'composition' and 'technique' of output. Although, the report does not say that trade concerns should be subjugated to climate change issues, it mentions that climate change can lead to shifts in the pattern of international trade based on comparative advantage of countries.

(c) All developing countries included India have no obligation under the UN convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol to make any mandatory emission cuts.

National plan on air pollution

†1659. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a nationwide plan to check air pollution and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government plans to set up CNG filling stations, along all the national highways to contain air pollution and if so, the targeted time for completion of this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the help of concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring the ambient air across the country at 346 stations covering 130 cities and towns in 28 States and 04 Union Territories. The data is compiled and processed by the CPCB leading to air pollution control measures by the concerned agencies, *i.e.*, CPCB, SPCBs, Municipalities, Transport Departments, State Governments, etc.

The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution which *interalia* includes implementation of notified emission standards for industries and generator sets. Implementation of action plans for air quality management in 16 cities apart from Delhi is being undertaken.

Implementation of emission norms for new and in-use vehicles and fuel quality in accordance with the Road Map of the Auto Fuel Policy, introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport and strengthening of mass transportation are underway.

(b) and (c) The Government has recently announced in the Budget 2009-10 establishment of 'Gas Highways' which are long distance highways to facilitate a National Gas Grid. Setting up of 'Gas Highways' would pave the path for increasing the availability of natural gas infrastructure in all parts of the country, setting up of CNG stations along highways and to contain air pollution due to vehicles.

As a pilot project, GAIL GAS, a subsidiary company of the GAIL (India) Limited, has planned to set-up CNG stations at Panvel (Mumbai - Pune Highway) and Kovvur (Vijayawada -Rajahmundry Highway). The said CNG stations are proposed to be commissioned by the end of 2nd quarter of year 2009-10. However, it is difficult to allocate a time line for completion of this project.

Relocation of villagers from tiger reserves

1660. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1824, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th December, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government has completed the enhancing of the relocation/rehabilitation package for villages in the core areas of tiger reserves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has been revised to include, *interalia*, an enhanced village relocation package (from Rs. 1.00 lakh/per family to Rs. 10.00 lakhs/per family), for relocation of villages from the core/critical tiger habitat of a Tiger Reserve, identified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 towards providing inviolate space to tiger population.